

# AmeriCorps Funding Crisis – Bulletin #5, July 7, 2003

**Save the date!** There will be a press conference on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in Detroit. More details in Bulletin #6.

## The National News

- On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, President Bush signed the [Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act](#). This law establishes clear accounting guidelines for education awards from the National Service Trust. It solves one of the issues that led to the devastating cuts and will allow for a minimum number of additional Michigan's AmeriCorps members. But it does not solve the funding crisis facing Michigan's AmeriCorps programs.

While this legislation allows the Corporation for National and Community Service to enroll 50,000 members, 22,000 of those members are already serving. (These are the members that began serving after the enrollment freeze was lifted.) This means there will only be 28,000 AmeriCorps members serving nationwide during the upcoming program year. We estimate the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act will bring Michigan's cuts from 85 percent to approximately 60 percent.

- The national web site, [www.saveamericorps.org](http://www.saveamericorps.org), continues to be a good resource.
- See how the AmeriCorps funding cuts will impact other states. [Click here](#) for a report compiled by America's Service Commissions.
- *In the news. . .*
  - [Philadelphia Enquirer – 7/7/03](#)
  - [The Boston Globe – 7/6/03](#)
  - [KnightRidder Washington Bureau – 7/6/03](#)
  - [Fox News Channel – 7/3/03](#)

## The Statewide News

- The Michigan Public Policy Initiative, a program of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, has information available on their web site at <http://www.mnaonline.org/ameriCorps.htm>. For more information via email, contact Erin Skene at [skeneeri@mnaonline.org](mailto:skeneeri@mnaonline.org).
- *In the news. . .*
  - [The Holland Sentinel – 7/7/03](#)
  - Congressman Dingell (D-Dearborn, District 15) held a rally on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to show his support for AmeriCorps. [Click here](#) for the event's news release.
- [Click here](#) to receive more information on the issue from the Michigan Community Service Commission web site.

## The Local Stories

Are you concerned about the AmeriCorps funding cuts? Please tell us your story. Send an email message to [MCSC-News@michigan.gov](mailto:MCSC-News@michigan.gov).

## Background Information

Three issues are impacting Michigan's AmeriCorps programs:

1. Michigan's AmeriCorps program funding is being cut from \$6.2 million to \$900,000.

2. The balance in the Education Award Trust will not support President Bush's call for 75,000 members.
3. A cap has been placed on the number of AmeriCorps members who can enroll nationwide.

These issues are a result of accountability gaps on the part of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps funding, and the subsequent response of the U.S. Congress.